ing and balckmarketing in edible oils during last two years; and

(b) the extent of price spread in the edible oil as a result of the Market Intervention Operation by NDDB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). During Oil Year 1990-91, the NDDB had been successful in reducing the price spread to 30% for groundnut oil which is the major price determinant for other edible oils. NDDB has no statutory powers for preventing profiteering and black-marketing in edible oils.

Oil and Natural Gas in North Bihar

4558. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas reserves have been found in the districts of North Bihar adjoining Nepal Terai area;

(b) if so, whether exploration works has been started there;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the result achieved so far from the drilling conducted in Dullipatti of Madhubani district and Khagaul in East-Champaran; and

(e) the steps being taken to continue this drilling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c). Although Exploration work is in progress in North Bihar however, no hydrocarbons have been found so far.

(d) The well Madhubani-1 was drilled very close to Dullipatti in Madhubani district. No well has been drilled in Khagaul. However, well Raxaul-1 was drilled in East Champaran district. These wells have not yielded any hydrocarbons.

(e) Presently well Kadamaha-1 in West Champaran district is under drilling. Further drilling will depend on the results of this well.

Compensation to land owners by the ONGC for Acquiring Land from Drilling Purpose in Andhra Pradesh

4559. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether full compensation has been paid to the land owners by the ONGC for acquiring land for drilling purpose in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether one member from each of the affected families has been given job; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which one member of each of the affected families is likely to be given job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). ONGC has acquired land in Andhra Pradesh, only on lease basis for the limited period of drilling, for which lease rental is being paid by the ONGC, as fixed by